

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1 1. (Currently Amended) A system for preventing theft of an object, comprising:
2 an electronic article surveillance (EAS) device operatively attached to an object;
3 a security path for detection of said EAS device;
4 a reader operatively coupled to said security path;
5 a smart card for being read by said reader, said smart card containing an identification
6 profile of an authorized user of said object; and
7 a computer attached to said reader, said computer disabling a security gate if a person
8 entering said security path is authorized to remove said object; and
9 an alarm operatively coupled to said security path,
10 wherein upon passage through said path, said EAS device triggers the path to activate
11 said alarm and subsequently said alarm is turned off by said computer if said person entering
12 said security path is authorized ~~said EAS device comprises a low frequency tag having a~~
13 ~~frequency in a range of about 100 Hz to about 1000 Hz, said low frequency tag being formed~~
14 ~~of a pattern of wires and strips that produce a predetermined harmonic field.~~

2. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein said EAS device comprises an acousto-magnetic tag.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein said EAS device comprises a radio frequency (RF) tag.

5. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 1, wherein said gate is for interrogating said EAS device, said gate including said reader one of built integrally thereto and in a proximity thereof.

6. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 1, wherein said computer contains

a database including information regarding said authorized user of said object.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 7 1, further comprising a video receiver operatively coupled to said path, said path activating said video receiver upon interrogating said EAS device.

9. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 7 1, wherein either said alarm is turned off or an authorized user is allowed free passage through said path, when said authorized person exhibits said smart card to said reader.

10. (Original) The system according to claim 1, further comprising a storage device, coupled to said reader, containing information on personnel authorized to enter through or exit through said path with said object.

11. (Original) The system according to claim 6, wherein said computer logs a time and user identity related to passage through said path.

12. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein said smart card comprises a direct contact smart card.

13. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein said smart card comprises a contactless smart card.

14. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein said smart card comprises a magnetic strip containing a code.

15. (Currently Amended) A method for preventing theft of an object, comprising:
operatively attaching an electronic article surveillance (EAS) device to an object;

3 detecting said EAS device as said object traverses a security path;
4 operatively coupling a reader to said security path;
5 reading, by said reader, a smart card being presented to said reader as said object
6 traverses said security path, said smart card containing an identification profile of an
7 authorized user of said object; and
8 attaching a computer to said reader, said computer disabling a security gate if a person
9 entering said security path is authorized to remove said object; and
10 operatively coupling an alarm to said security path,
11 wherein upon passage through said path, said EAS device triggers the path to activate
12 said alarm and subsequently said alarm is turned off by said computer if said person entering
13 said security path is authorized ~~said EAS device comprises a low frequency tag having a~~
14 ~~frequency in a range of about 100 Hz to about 1000 Hz, said low frequency tag being formed~~
15 ~~of a pattern of wires and strips that produce a predetermined harmonic field.~~

16. (Original) The method according to claim 15, wherein said EAS device comprises an acousto-magnetic tag.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Original) The method according to claim 15, wherein said EAS device comprises a radio frequency (RF) tag.

19. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein said security gate is for interrogating said EAS device, said gate including said reader one of built integrally thereto and in a proximity thereof.

20. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 15, further comprising:
providing said computer with a database including information regarding said
authorized user of said object; and
~~operatively coupling an alarm to said security path,~~

~~wherein upon passage through said path, said EAS device triggers the path to activate said alarm.~~

1 21. (Currently Amended) A system for preventing theft of an object, comprising:
2 an electronic article surveillance (EAS) device operatively attached to an object;
3 a security path for detection of said EAS device;
4 a reader operatively coupled to said security path;
5 a smart card for being read by said reader, said smart card containing an identification
6 profile of an authorized user of said object; and
7 a computer attached to said reader, said computer disabling a security gate if a person
8 entering said security path is authorized to remove said object; and
9 operatively coupling an alarm to said security path,
10 wherein upon passage through said path, said EAS device triggers the path to activate
11 said alarm and subsequently said alarm is turned off by said computer if said person entering
12 said security path is authorized, and
13 wherein said EAS device continuously outputs a signal to said security path.

22. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 21 wherein the identification profile is obtained independently of said signal.

23. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 21 wherein said computer opens said security gate when said smart card includes the identification profile of the authorized user of said object.

24. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 21 wherein said computer turns off an alarm when said smart card includes the identification profile of the authorized user of said object.

1 25. (New) The system according to claim 1, wherein a video image is captured each time
2 said alarm is actuated.

1 26. (New) The system according to claim 1, wherein a video image is captured each time
2 said alarm is turned off.

1 27. (New) The system according to claim 1, wherein a video image is captured when said
2 smart card includes the identification profile of the authorized user of said object.
